

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 22 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Requesting a Personal Interview

It is believed that a personal interview between the Examiner and Applicants is beneficial for both parties to advance the prosecution of this application. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representatives to schedule a personal interview prior to acting on the application.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19 and 21.

III. Formal Matter

The Office Action objects to claim 22 for an informality. Claim 22 is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0014513 to Boon. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Boon teaches that a game starts when an initially inputted beating operation signal is received as a start signal, citing paragraph 0026. There, Boon disclosed a control pad 46 that included a start button 58. Boon disclosed "hitting the start button 58 on the control pad 46" as a "begin game" instruction. Thus, by "hitting" the start button, Boon simply means to press the start button 58. However, the start button 58 is not a percussion instrument recited in claim 22. In fact, Boon did not disclose anything requiring percussion instruments. As shown in Fig. 3, control pad 46 is a game controller

well known in the art. Thus, Boon did not disclose or suggest "beating operation signal...received by the percussion instrument" recited in claim 22. Accordingly, Boon did not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 22. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0083873 to Yoshino et al. (Yoshino) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,852,443 to Duncan et al. (Duncan). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that the head 12 of Yoshino is an annularly-formed input area. However, the head 12 is not "annular" but a disk. The word "annular" has a dictionary meaning of "shaped like or forming a ring" (see American Heritage College Dictionary, Third Edition, copy enclosed) and is so used in the specification. See page 9, lines 20-21, for example. Thus, Yoshino does not disclose or suggest an annularly-formed input area, as recited in claim 1.

Further Yoshino discloses two sensors 76; a first sensor 14 located at the center of a first net 56 and a second sensor 18 located at an upper portion inside barrel section 50. Thus, Yoshino does not disclose a plurality of sensors located annularly, as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action admits that Yoshino does not teach or suggest an input area including a plurality of input sensors but asserts that Duncan disclosed the missing subject matter. However, Duncan discusses a single capacitive sensor as a pressure sensor that detects pressure on a drum surface. See Fig. 1. Further, the pressure sensitive sensor is not located annularly in the annularly-formed input area. Rather, Duncan's pressure sensitive sensor is located on a disk shaped surface. Thus, Duncan does not teach or suggest the input sensors located annularly, as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action also asserts that Yoshino teaches that the head sensor 14 is "branched from" the rim-shot sensor 18. However, Yoshino discloses that the head sensor 14

and the rim-shot sensor 18 are separately and directly connected to an A/D converter 20 that performs analog-to-digital conversion of the detected signal output from the head sensor 14 and the rim-shot sensor 18. See paragraph 0049 and Fig. 1. The head sensor 14 is not a part of the rim-shot sensor 18 and therefore does not branch from the rim-shot sensor 18.

The Office Action takes Official Notice that bypass members are well known in the art and that the mere application of a known technique to a specific instance by those skilled in the art would have been obvious. Applicants respectfully request references on which the Official Notice is based, because Applicants disagree.

The Office Action asserts that the motivation for incorporating a bypass member is to provide a cost-effective mechanism to transmit signals as desired. Applicants disagree. Incorporating bypass members which are transmission paths in addition to transmission paths already present is not cost efficient because redundant paths are introduced. Moreover, there is no need for such bypass members in Yoshino because direct transmission paths are already provided for each of the sensors 14 and 18, and Duncan only disclosed a single sensor.

Neither Yoshino nor Duncan discloses or suggests any need for such a bypass member because such bypass members are needed. The head sensor 14 and the rim-shot sensor 18 of Yoshino are separately and directly connected to the A/D converter 20, as discussed above. Therefore, Yoshino does not need a bypass member to bypass the signal transmission. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to do so.


Therefore, Yoshino and Duncan, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the input sensors located annularly and/or the bypass members. Claims 8 and 15 depend from claim 1. Thus, Yoshino and Duncan, individually or in combination, do not disclose the subject matter recited in claims 1, 8 and 15. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

V. **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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an·ni·ver·sa·ry (ăn'vîr'sa-rî) *n.*, *pl.* -ries. 1. The annually recurring date of a past event. 2. A celebration commemorating such a date. [ME *anniversarie* < Med.Lat. (*diēs*) *anniversaria*, anniversary (day) < Lat., fem. of *anniversarius*, returning yearly: *annus*, year; see *at-* + *versus*, p.p. of *vertere*, to turn; see *ver-*².]

an·no Dom·i·ni (ăn'ô dôin'ô-nî, dôin'ô-nê) *adv.* In a specified year of the Christian era. [Med.Lat.: *anno*, in the year + *Dominus*, genitive of *Dominus*, Lord.]

an·no·tate (ăn'ô-rât') *v.* -tat·ed, -tat·ing, -tates. — *tr.* To add commentary or notes to; gloss. — *intr.* To gloss a text. [Lat. *annotare*, *annotat-*, to note down: *ad-*, to + *notare*, to write (< *nota*, note; see *gnô-*²).] — *an·no·ta·tor* *n.*

an·no·ta·tion (ăn'ô-râ'shən) *n.* 1. The act or process of adding commentary or notes. 2. A critical or explanatory note.

an·nounce (a-nouns') *v.* -nounced, -nounc·ing, -nounc·es. — *tr.* 1. To make known publicly. 2. To proclaim the presence of: *announce a caller*. 3. To provide an indication of before-hand; foretell. 4. To provide running comments on: *announce a football game*. — *intr.* 1. To declare one's candidacy. 2. To provide running comments. [ME *annoncen* < OFr. *annoncier* < Lat. *annūtiāre*: *ad-*, to + *nūtiāre*, to report (< *nūtiūs*, messenger; see *neu-*²).] — *an·nounc·er* *n.*

an·nounce·ment (a-nouns'mənt) *n.* 1. a. The act of making known publicly. b. Something announced. 2. An engraved or printed statement or notice.

an·noy (a-noi') *v.* -noyed, -noy·ing, -noys. — *tr.* 1. To cause irritation to by troublesome acts. 2. To harass or disturb by repeated attacks. — *intr.* To be annoying. [ME *anoien* < OFr. *anoier*, *ennuyer* < VLat. **inodiāre*, to make odious < Lat. *in odio*, odious: *in*, in; see *in-*² + *odiō*, ablative of *odium*, hatred; see *od-*².]

an·noy·ance (a-noi'əns) *n.* 1. The act of annoying or the state of being annoyed. 2. A cause of irritation or vexation.

an·noy·ing (a-noi'ing) *adj.* Causing vexation or irritation; troublesome: *an annoying cough*. — *an·noy·ing·ly* *adv.*

an·nu·al (ăn'voo-əl) *adj.* 1. Happening every year: yearly: *an annual trip to Paris*. 2. Of, relating to, or determined by a year: *an annual income*. 3. Bot. Living or growing for one year or season. — *n.* 1. A periodical published yearly; a yearbook. 2. Bot. A plant that completes its life cycle in one growing season. [ME *annuel* < OFr. < LLat. *annuālis*, ult. < Lat. *annus*, year. See *at-*².] — *an·nu·al·ly* *adv.*

an·nu·al·ize (ăn'voo-ə-lîz') *tr.v.* -lized, -liz·ing, -liz·es. To calculate to reflect a rate based on a full year.

annual ring *n.* Bot. The layer of wood formed in a plant during a single year.

an·nu·i·tant (a-nô'i-tənt, ə-nô'i-t') *n.* One that receives or is qualified to receive an annuity.

an·nu·i·ty (a-nô'i-tî, ə-nô'i-t') *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. a. The annual payment of an income. b. The right to receive this payment or the obligation to make this payment. 2. An investment on which one receives fixed payments for a lifetime or for a number of years. [ME *annuite* < AN < Med.Lat. *annuitās* < Lat. *annuus*, yearly < *annus*, year. See *at-*².]

an·nul (ə-nul') *tr.v.* -nulled, -nul·ing, -nuls. 1. To make or declare void or invalid; nullify. 2. To obliterate: *a memory annulled by time*. [ME *annullen* < OFr. *annuller* < LLat. *annullāre*: Lat. *ad-*, to + Lat. *nullus*, none; see *ne-*².]

an·nu·lar (ăn'vô-lôr) *adj.* Shaped like or forming a ring. [Lat. *ānularis* < *ānulus*, ring. See *ANNULUS*.]

annular eclipse *n.* A solar eclipse in which the moon covers all but a bright ring around the circumference of the sun.

annular ligament *n.* The fibrous band of tissue that surrounds the ankle joint or the wrist joint.

an·nu·late (ăn'vô-lîr, -lât') also **an·nu·lat·ed** (-lâ'tîd) *adj.* Having or consisting of rings or ringlike segments. [Lat. *ān-lātus* < *ānulus*, ring. See *ANNULUS*.]

an·nu·la·tion (ăn'vô-lâ'shən) *n.* 1. The act or process of forming rings. 2. A ringlike structure, segment, or part.

an·nu·let (ăn'vô-lîr) *n.* *Archit.* A ringlike molding around the capital of a pillar. [Lat. *ānulus*, ring; see *ANNULUS* + *-et*.]

an·nul·ment (ə-nul'mənt) *n.* 1. An act of making or declaring void. 2. The invalidation of a marriage by means of a declaration stating that the marriage was never valid.

an·nu·lus (ăn'vô-lôs) *n.*, *pl.* -lus·es or -li (-lî'). 1. A ringlike figure, part, structure, or marking. 2. a. A ring of cells around the sporangia of many ferns that functions in spore release. b. A ring found around the stipes of certain mushrooms. 3. *Math.* The region bounded by two concentric circles. [Lat. *ānulus*, ring, dim. of *ānus*.]

an·nun·ci·ate (ə-nūn'sî-āt') *tr.v.* -at·ed, -at·ing, -ates. To announce; proclaim: *annunciate a policy*. [Lat. *annūtiāre*, *annūtiāt-*. See *ANNOUNCE*.]

an·nun·ci·a·tion (ə-nūn'sî-ā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of announcing. 2. An announcement; a proclamation. 3. *Annun·ciation*. a. The angel Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation. b. The Christian feast celebrating this event, traditionally observed on March 25.

an·nun·ci·a·tor (ə-nūn'sî-ā'tôr) *n.* One that announces, esp. an electrical signaling device on a switchboard.

an·nus mi·rab·i·lis (ăn'as mî-răb'ô-lîs) *n.*, *pl.* **an·ni mi·ra·**

bi·les (ăn'fî mî-răb'ô-lêz, ăn'ê) *n.* A year of wonders. [NLat.: Lat. *annus*, year + Lat. *mirābilis*, wondrous.]

an·ode (ăn'ôd') *n.* 1. A positively charged electrode, as of a storage battery. 2. The negatively charged terminal of a primary cell or of a storage battery that is supplying current. [Gk. *anodos*, a way up: *ana-*, ana- + *bodos*, way.]

an·o·dize (ăn'ô-dîz') *tr.v.* -dized, -diz·ing, -diz·es. To coat (a metal) electrolytically with a protective or decorative oxide. [ANOD(E) + *-ize*.] — **an·o·di·za·tion** (-dî-zâ'shən) *n.*

an·o·dyne (ăn'ô-dîn') *adj.* 1. Capable of soothing or eliminating pain. 2. Watered-down; insipid: *that passage was pretty anodyne*. (Conor Cruise O'Brien). — *n.* A comforter or a reliever of pain. [Lat. *anodynus* < Gk. *anōdinos*, free from pain: *an-*, without; see *a-*¹ + *odunē*, pain; see *ed-*².]

a·noint (ə-noint') *tr.v.* -a·nointed, -a·noint·ing, -a·noints. 1. To apply oil, ointment, or a similar substance to. 2. To put oil on during a religious ceremony. 3. To choose by or as if by divine intervention. [ME *enointen* < OFr. *enoint*, p.p. of *enoindre* < Lat. *inungere*, *inūct-*: *in-*, on; see *in-*² + *un-guere*, to smear.] — **a·noint·ment** *n.*

a·noint·ing of the sick (ə-noint'ing) *n.* *Rom. Cath. Ch.* The sacrament of anointing a critically ill or weak person, with prayers for recovery and an act of penance or confession.

a·no·le (ə-nô'lê) *n.* Any of various chiefly tropical New World lizards of the genus *Anolis*, characterized by the ability to change color. [Fr. *anolis*, of Cariban orig.]

a·nom·a·lous (ə-nôm'ô-lôs) *adj.* 1. Deviating from the usual or common order, form, or rule. 2. Equivocal, as in classification or nature. [LLat. *anōmalos* < Gk., uneven: prob. < *an-*, not; see *a-*¹ + *homalos*, even (< *homos*, same; see *sem-*¹²).]

a·nom·a·ly (ə-nôm'ô-lê) *n.*, *pl.* -lies. 1. Deviation or departure from the usual or common order, form, or rule. 2. One that is peculiar, irregular, abnormal, or difficult to classify. 3. *Astron.* The angular deviation, as observed from the sun, of a planet from its perihelion. — **a·nom·a·lîs'tic** (-lîs'tîk), **a·nom·a·lîs'ti·cal** *adj.* — **a·nom·a·lîs'ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

an·o·mie or **an·o·my** (ăn'ô-mî) *n.* 1. Social instability caused by erosion of standards and values. 2. Alienation and purposelessness as a result of a lack of standards and values. 3. Personal disorganization resulting in unsocial behavior. [Fr. < Gk. *anomia*, lawlessness < *anomos*, lawless: *a-*, without; see *a-*¹ + *nomos*, law; see *nem-*².] — **an·o·mic** (ə-nô'mîk, ə-nô'mîk) *adj.*

a·non (ə-nôn') *adv.* 1. At another time; later. 2. In a short time; soon. 3. *Archit.* At once; forthwith. — **Idiom**, ever (or now) and anon. Time after time; now and then. [ME, at once < OE *on ān*: *on*, in; see *on* + *ān*, one; see *ol-no-*².]

anon, *abbr.* Anonymous.

an·o·nym (ăn'ô-nîm') *n.* 1. An anonymous person. 2. A pseudonym. [Fr. *anonyme* < LLat. *anōnymus*, anonymous. See *ANONYMOUS*.]

an·o·nym·i·ty (ăn'ô-nîm'i-tî) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. The quality or state of being unknown or unacknowledged. 2. One that is unknown or unacknowledged.

a·non·y·mous (ə-nôn'ô-môs) *adj.* 1. Having an unknown or unacknowledged name: *an anonymous author*. 2. Having an unknown or withheld authorship or agency: *an anonymous letter*. 3. Having no distinctive character or individuality. [LLat. *anōnymus* < Gk. *anōnymos*, nameless: *an-*, without; see *a-*¹ + *onuma*, name; see *nō-men-*².]

a·noph·e·les (ə-nô'fê-lêz') *n.* Any of various mosquitoes of the genus *Anopheles*, which can carry the malaria parasite. [Gk. *anōphēlēs*, useless: *an-*, without; see *a-*¹ + *ōphēleia*, advantage.] — **a·noph·e·line** (-lîn', -lîn) *adj.*

an·o·rak (ăn'ô-răk') *n.* A heavy jacket with a hood; a parka. [Greenlandic *annorauq*, formerly spelled *anorak*.]

an·o·rec·tic (ăn'ô-rêk'tîk) also **an·o·ret·ic** (-rê'tîk) — *adj.* 1. Marked by loss of appetite. 2. Causing loss of appetite. 3. Of or affected with anorexia nervosa. — *n.* 1. One who is affected with anorexia nervosa. 2. An anorectic drug. [Gk. *anorektos*: *an-*, not; see *a-*¹ + *orektos*, desired (< *oregein*, to reach out for; see *reg-*²).]

an·o·rex·i·a (ăn'ô-rêk'sî-ə) *n.* Loss of appetite. [Gk.: *an-*, without; see *a-*¹ + *orexis*, appetite (< *oregein*, to reach out for; see *reg-*²).]

anorexia nerv·o·sa (nûr-vô'sə) *n.* A disorder usu. occurring in teenage women, characterized by a fear of obesity, a distorted self-image, an aversion to food, and severe weight loss. [NLat.: *anorexia*, anorexia + *nervosa*, nervous.]

an·o·rex·ic (ăn'ô-rêk'sîk) *adj.* 1. Afflicted with anorexia nervosa. 2. Anorectic. — **an·o·rex'ic** *n.*

an·or·thite (ăn-ôr'thîr) *n.* A rare plagioclase feldspar with high calcium oxide content occurring in igneous rocks. [Gk. *an-*, not; see *a-*¹ + *orthos*, straight (from its oblique crystals).]

an·or·tho·sîte (ăn-ôr'thō-sîr') *n.* A variety of diorite consisting chiefly of feldspar. [Fr. *anorthose*, a kind of feldspar (Gk. *an-*, not; see *a-*¹ + Gk. *orthos*, straight) + *-rre'*.]

an·os·m·i·a (ăn-ôz'mî-ə) *n.* Loss of the sense of smell. [NLat.: Gk. *an-*, without; see *a-*¹ + Gk. *osmē*, odor.] — **an·os'mic** *adj.*



annular eclipse
Solar eclipse,
March 7, 1970



anorak

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ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
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Stress marks:
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' (secondary), as in
dictionary (dik'sha-nêr'ê)

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